(f) whether any assessment has been made in regard to the expenditure, likely to be incurred on the said scheme; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) Urea is the only fertilizer, movement and distribution of which at present is under partial control of the Government of India (GoI). Availability of Urea at State level is ensured by the GoI.

The demand and supply of major fertilizers like Urea, DAP and MOP in the last three years is as under:

(LMT)

Year	UREA		DAP		MOP	
	Demand	Supply	Demand	Supply	Demand	Supply
2004-05	214.08	214.90	70.60	63.89	23.21	24.32
2005-06	234.25	235.65	78.02	79.76	28.89	32.11
2006-07	249.46	254.79	81.31	77.57	33.23	24.82
2007-08*	86.83	86.79	27.55	24.55	10.27	10.25

*April—July'07

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Question does not arise.

(d) to (g) Under the New Pricing Scheme Stage-III for Urea units, which has been approved by the Government on 1st February 2007:

(i) The subsidy on Urea will be paid only after it reaches the district;

(ii) The freight on movement of Urea will now be paid on actual rail and road leads under NPS-III; &

(iii) The rail freight will be paid as per the actual expenditure under the new dispensation. The road freight will be escalated on the basis of a composite road transport index.

The approximate expenditure on the above scheme has been assessed at Rs. 99.98 crores.

Shortage of fertilizers in Madhya Pradesh, etc.

618. MS. MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that there was tremendous shortage of fertilizers, Urea and DAP during the Rabi crop in the States of Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand;

(b) whether farmers had to buy these fertilizers from the black market;

(c) whether Government are aware that a lot of fertilizers are spurious and the farmers have lost their money on it; and

(d) how Government would ensure adequate and quality fertilizers to the farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) Urea is the only fertilizer whose movement and distribution is under the partial control of the Government of India (GoI). GOI is responsible for supplying Urea up to the State level. It is the responsibility of the State Governments to ensure distribution of fertilizers as per local demand within the State.

All other fertilizers *viz.* DAP, MOP etc. are decontrolled ones, the availability of these fertilisers is decided by the market forces of demand and supply. The table below gives the details of demand and supply of urea, DAP and MOP in the States of Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh during Rabi 2006-07 season:

('000 MT)

State	Particulars	Urea	DAP	MOP
Madhya Pradesh	Demand/ Assessed requirement	800.00	400.00	25.00
	Supply (Availability)	967.29	319.91	34.99
	Sales	894.83	239.64	27.12
Jharkhand	Demand/ Assessed requirement	50.00	40.00	1.00
	Supply (Availability)	61.79	23.17	0.37
	Sales	59.21	19.52	0.38
Chhattisgarh	Demand/ Assessed requirement	90.00	55.00	10.00
	Supply (Availability)	213.61	84.93	28.30
	Sales	174.10	52.20	20.37

(b) to (d) Under clause 21 of the Fertilizer Control Order (FCO), 1985, it is mandatory to print the maximum retail price on the container of all kinds of fertilizers, whether under statutory price control or out of the purview of the statutory price control. No person shall charge higher than the price printed on the bag. Any person violating this mandatory provision of FCO is held liable to be proceeded against for administrative/punitive measures under the provisions of FCO and Essential Commodities Act. The State Governments are the enforcement agencies and are adequately empowered to take appropriate action against the offender who indulge in any kind of malpractices.